

Office of the Governor of North Carolina, Section 2 provides an in-depth look at 16 projects that located their businesses in the state. The research looks at both state and local incentives and, when possible, the outcome of the project to date. Section 3 takes a look at two case study projects in two competitive states, South Carolina and Virginia. These two states were the most cited in the 16 in-depth case studies as our competitors. Here, the consultant looks at two projects that chose to locate their businesses in these states instead of in North Carolina. Section 4 examines how private sector consultants influenced the 16 projects reviewed in Section 2 and four of the projects that located in South Carolina and Virginia. While not all projects had consultants, a fair number did and those results are provided in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 provides summary findings and offers some recommendations for economic development incentives for North Carolina in the coming years.

Section 2—JDIG/One NC: North Carolina Case Studies

For the years 2002 to 2008, hundreds of businesses have chosen to locate their new facilities in North Carolina. Many businesses locate in North Carolina without any governmental assistance, while others request and receive millions of dollars of public sector assistance for their location. The case studies investigated by the consultant were projects that were identified and tracked by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and were eligible for either the One North Carolina Fund (One NC) grant program or the Job Development Incentive Grant (JDIG) program. Essentially, the objectives of an economic development program are two-fold: 1) to create new employment opportunities, and 2) to increase the tax base of a community by increasing the business fixed assets. With this information in mind, the following discussion will review the case studies completed by the consultant for North Carolina.

North Carolina Case Study Discussion

Early in the study, it was determined that the case studies would be located from each economic development region in North Carolina. Map 1 provides a detailed view of the counties located within each economic development region of North Carolina, and stars represent the 32 case study locations. In addition, it was determined that the case studies would examine projects located in years 2002 to 2008. Finally, it was determined that the case studies would only examine new announced projects in North Carolina; no expansions were analyzed.